

Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP98/07148 filed November 9, 1998

On page 8 at the beginning thereof please delete "Patent claims",

On page 8 before claim 1 please add --What is claimed is:--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 2.

Please add the following new claims 3 and 4:

3. The product of the process for the preparation of a mixture of fatty alcohols having an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85 of the formula (I)



wherein R¹ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched radical having from 14 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein the process comprises the steps of:

- (a) fractionating palm oil fatty acid methyl esters to produce a first methyl ester fraction comprised substantially of saturated C₁₆ esters and a bottom product which is a second methyl ester fraction comprised substantially of unsaturated C_{16/18} esters, and
- (b) hydrogenating the bottom fraction to give the corresponding alcohols under conditions such that the carbon-carbon double bonds remain intact.

4. A process for the preparation of a mixture of fatty alcohols having an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85 of the formula (I)



wherein R¹ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched radical having from 14 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein the process comprises the steps of:

- (a) fractionating palm oil fatty acid methyl esters to produce a first methyl ester